GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1247
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2016
FM Radio Service
Mahendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to expand the reach of FM radio to cover 60 per cent of the population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is promoting private operators to provide FM radio services in metros and small cities and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether private participation is encouraged in providing quality services and replacing the existing system of bidding for licenses with a revenue sharing mechanism; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) to (e): As far as All India Radio is concerned, FM service of AIR is being provided from 416 FM transmitters (including 194 Nos. of 100 W FM transmitters for localised coverage) functional across the country and presently reaching to about 47% of the total population of the country. In order to further augment the FM coverage of AIR, 123 new FM transmitters are being commissioned. Apart from this, power of existing old 61 FM transmitters is also being upgraded by replacing with higher power FM transmitters.
After commissioning of these new transmitters, AIR FM coverage is likely to be available to about 60% population of the country.
The Policy on expansion of FM Radio Broadcasting services through Private Agencies (Phase-III) approved in 2011 seeks to extend FM radio services to a total of 294 cities with 839 new FM radio channels. It envisages setting up of Private FM radio channels in all cities/towns having population above one lakh (based on 2001 census). Besides 11 towns in Jammu & Kashmir, North East & Island Territories (having population less than one lakh) have also been proposed for setting up FM radio channels.
The Policy guidelines for expansion of FM Radio broadcasting through private agencies provision annual fee on a revenue sharing mechanism. The operators are required to pay their annual license fee at the rate of 2.5% of the bid amount (Non-refundable one time entry fee) or 4% of the gross revenue, for the previous financial year, whichever is higher, in four quarterly instalments.